

THE  
**DISSEMINATOR**  
Nova Scotia Provincial Library  
ISSN: 1209-2473

V.10, N.2, February 2003

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**NEWS FROM THE REGIONS**

**Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)**

AVRL's east mobile branch office, which has been based in Coldbrook since 1971, is moving to the town of Kentville, taking up residence in an unused portion of the Kings County Academy school. The original plan was to merge both bookmobile operations into AVRL's Bridgetown offices, but a last-minute decision deemed this new solution to be more financially viable.

The brand new Mobile Branch East bus has arrived and is currently undergoing some interior design. It is planned to hit the road sometime in early spring!

Recent programs in AVRL branches have included:

- *Time-for-a-Rhyme* - each Tuesday morning, parents/caregivers and their babies/preschoolers get together to read, and review children's books and toys
- *Breakfast Serials Club* - a regular Saturday morning program that combines books, science and crafts for ages five to eight
- *Baby's First Books* - an event where parents and babies are introduced to the sharing of books and rhymes
- *Meet with a Reading Specialist* - a local reading specialist provided tips to help children become better readers
- *Computers are for Kids After-School Programs* - crafts, games and fun with a different theme each week
- *3-D Storytime* - pre-school program for boys and girls where they listen to a story and learn about computers

AVRL currently has two LibraryNet employees working on Smart Libraries/Web site projects until the end of March. The library is partnering with classes in two rural schools who will provide research and assistance with developing the *Kids' Corner* portion of AVRL's website. A second project involves the coordination of group meetings with teens in four of AVRL's libraries by hosting pizza parties and, in exchange, receiving valuable input for the *Teen Zone* portion of its web site!

**Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)**

For the second year, CBRL played host to Family Literacy Day celebrations on Sunday, January 26 at the McConnell Library in Sydney. The celebrations were organized in partnership with the Cape Breton Literacy Coalition, the Cape Breton Post, and the Screaming Eagles hockey team. Approximately 200 parents and children were in attendance for the fun. The children were entertained by Klutzy the Clown, Douglas Arthur Brown, Blair Hill and Duncan Welles as well as Screech, the mascot for the Screaming Eagles, and Riley, the bookworm. Door prizes and giveaways were drawn, the most exciting of which was a child's Eagles hockey shirt signed by all the players.

**Author Douglas Arthur Brown reads from one of his stories.**



**Klutzy the Clown entertains while the children and Screech, the mascot for the Screaming Eagles, look on.**

Normally, at this time of the year CBRL staff are busy gearing up for Library Card Month in March. This year, the fifth annual Library Card Month campaign will take place in October. This change will take advantage of the new school year, better weather and an opportunity to be part of Public Library Week, which also takes place in October. Past Library Card Month campaigns have been very successful since they began in March 1999, with each year surpassing the registration goals set. From the enthusiasm shown at a recent 2003 Library Card Month planning meeting, staff are gearing up for a bigger and better campaign in October!

Since it opened in 2000, the Gates Centre, located at the McConnell Library in Sydney, has been busy with a steady stream of users taking advantage of the computer training services offered. Computer training sessions have included Computer Basics, Basic MS-Word, Internet and E-mail training. Another popular service is the *Typing Tutor* software, which allows users to work at their own pace learning keyboarding skills. Many patrons become comfortable enough using computers to perform job searches and more. An additional service offered at the Gates Centre is GED preparation. Seven of the Gates computers have recently been loaded with *Plato* software, which is a comprehensive adult education software for GED preparation. In addition to the software, an adult teacher is always on site to help patrons develop the skills they need to write the GED tests. Funding for these projects comes from Human Resources Development Canada through the Cape Breton Response Strategy.

## **Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)**

### **Family Literacy**

January 27 was Family Literacy Day and this year CEHRL was pleased to host celebrations in the Truro Library. The well-attended, fun event was organized by students in the upgrading classes sponsored by the Colchester Adult Learning Association and featured story telling and poetry. Children enjoyed crafts and had fun selecting gently-used books to take home. Each person attending was given a slip of paper with a word, instead of a number, for the draw for backpacks, books and videos held at the end of the event.

Two days earlier, the mobile library had been a feature attraction at Family Literacy events in Upper Stewiacke where a dozen people registered for library cards.

Behind the scenes, the joint CEHRL - Department of Education research project on family literacy is progressing well. The inaugural meeting of an advisory working group, held at the Truro Library in December, generated considerable enthusiasm and a great exchange of information. To encourage communication between meetings, library staff worked with NSPL to set up an e-mail group for project participants, as well as space on the world wide web where project coordinator Michelle Bowden can post updates and draft documents for participants to review. Michelle has also started her site visits to selected family literacy programs around the province.

### **Information Technology and Training**

Thanks to a \$7,600 C@P sustainability grant, four new computers have replaced aged Internet access stations in the reading rooms of the Truro Library. As well, a flatbed digital scanner will be added to the Gates Learning Centre, two digital cameras are on order (one for lending to the public, the other for public training and library use), and the desktop security system *Deep Freeze* has been installed on 10 public access computers.

Introductory computer classes and tutorials in the Gates Learning Centre continue to be hot tickets. Access to the new scanner and digital cameras will add to their appeal.

### **Elmsdale Branch**

Kudos to Elmsdale Branch staff! In John N. Grant's new book, *The Maroons of Nova Scotia* (Halifax: Formac, 2002), he writes "I also acknowledge the generous assistance afforded to me by the staff at . . . the Colchester East Hants Regional Library (Elmsdale Branch) . . ."

### **Funding Crisis Campaign**

Brochures, letters and a travelling *road show* have been enlisted to get the word out to governments, opposition parties and the public, that Nova Scotia's public libraries are facing a funding crisis. Taking to the highways and byways, the eight-performance road show with its cast of two, Board Chair John Patterson and CEHRL's Director Janet Pelley, visited each MLA and municipal council in the region to acquaint them with the crisis.

To date the four municipal councils in the CEHRL's area have written to the Minister of Education urging improved funding for public libraries. The Rotary Club of Truro, Canadian Federation of University Women Truro, Coastal Communities Network, Cobequid Community Network and the Colchester Adult Learning Association have also stepped forward with letters of support.

Depending on which side of the House they sit, MLAs from the Colchester-East Hants region have either raised the issue in caucus or in the House. Local media have given excellent coverage and members of the public are making their views known.

## **Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)**

In spite of all the snow and cold weather this winter, all CURL county libraries have been busy with circulation up 12 percent over this time last year. The Library has welcomed many new patrons who are taking advantage of the wide variety of programs currently being offered. One of the Amherst Library's most recent programs was a song writing workshop, which attracted patrons of all ages from Cumberland County, as well as people from New Brunswick. The Library's IT Trainer, Kevin Madden, who is also a musician, coordinated the popular event. Plans are underway to have song writing

circles every few months. The song writing workshop was a follow up to the rock concert held the previous week at the Amherst Library.

**The Moncton band *A Story Told* shown performing recently at the Amherst Library.**



Another new program launched in February was the *Mother/Daughter Book Club* coordinated by Assistant Librarian Beth Clinton (with a little help from her daughter Faith). The Club is aimed at girls in grades 5 to 9 and it offers a great opportunity for mothers and daughters to chat about the issues raised in books.

Recently a fundraiser for Cumberland County's Adult Literacy group (CANU) was held at the Amherst Library. A dessert theatre and the wonderfully witty play *Love Letters* was enjoyed by nearly 70 people one cold February night.

Speaking of the cold, on what turned out to be one of the coldest nights of the year, the Amherst Library participated in the Town's Winter Carnival and offered *Tales for a Cold Winter's Night*. Although the snow sculpting contest had to be postponed due to the extreme cold weather, families were still able to enjoy stories, winter Pictionary and plenty of hot chocolate!

### **Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)**

On January 15, ECRL representatives attended a training module at the Mulgrave Professional Centre on the Nova Scotia Health Network Website. Participants learned to navigate the web site and to search for quality information on a variety of health-related topics. The session was presented through Industry Canada's Student Connection Program.



**Left to right: Presenter Jeremy Tait, Assistant Presenter Jennifer Poole, Aurea Gillis, ECRL, Sandra Dixon, ECRL and Janice Crooks, Guysborough County C@P Coordinator.**

January and February have been busy months for Acting CEO, Dave Cumby. Dave has been travelling the roads of Inverness, Richmond and Guysborough to update municipal councils. The presentation, entitled *Your Public Library: A Vital*

*Information Link in communities throughout Guysborough, Inverness and Richmond Counties* was customized for each municipal council and included information on library locations and service levels; existing and planned programs or initiatives; and statistical and user survey highlights. The response from the local Councils has been very encouraging. They have been supportive of ECRL and other public libraries' efforts to both maintain existing funding and develop an improved funding formula to better serve Regions with stagnant or declining populations.

Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture, visited the Coady-Tompkins Library in January to announce 11 tourism grants for various areas of the province. The Margaree Tourism Association received \$37,000 for their project. The announcement was hosted by library staff in Margaree Forks. Minister MacDonald agreed that there was no better place to make his announcement and was delighted to have been hosted at Coady-Tompkins!



**Left to right: Patron Diane McKinnon, Mary Landry, ECRL Public Services Librarian, Anne LeBlanc, ECRL Library Assistant and Minister MacDonald.**

Plans to host the NSLA/LBANS 2003 Conference in the Fall of 2003 at Dundee Resort in Cape Breton are progressing well. In order to avoid conflict with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference next Fall, new dates have been chosen and have been set for October 24, 25, & 26. Conference Chair, Lesley Carruthers, and Program Committee Chair, Dave Cumby, welcome input for topics and speakers. Contact Lesley at [lcarruth@nsme.library.ns.ca](mailto:lcarruth@nsme.library.ns.ca) or Dave at [dcumby@nsme.library.ns.ca](mailto:dcumby@nsme.library.ns.ca).

## **Halifax Regional Library (HRL)**

### **HRL Wins American Library Association's (ALA) Most Prestigious Award**



HRL is pleased to announce that it has won the ALA's prestigious John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award. HRL received the award, which honours "outstanding achievement in library public relations" for a particular program, celebration or campaign, for its promotion of the 2002 Summer Reading Club.

The Summer Reading Club, which in 2002 celebrated 20 years of promoting children's reading over the summer, has always been a popular program. This past year was the most successful yet, with a substantial increase over 2001, in registration, participation and the number of books read. With the goal of increasing core participation, HRL, as part of its

2002 public relations campaign, expanded partnerships with local business and community organizations; reached more schools; solicited increased involvement at a municipal level; worked towards more community outreach; created a dynamic website presence; and creatively and consistently used an identifiable theme and recognizable graphics throughout the program.

The award, sponsored by American publishers H.W. Wilson and the Library Administration and Management Association, is named for American librarian John Cotton Dana (1856-1929), and given to libraries which distinguish themselves through effective public relations campaigns. Dana, a key figure in what is termed a "Progressive Era" in American history, believed that libraries could and should play a leading role in realizing the democratic culture and egalitarian society.

The John Cotton Dana Award is the fourth award HRL has received over the last year. Other awards include the LibraryNet *Best Practices* for innovative Internet use in Canadian Public Libraries, the ALA's *Best of Show Award* and finally, the *Lieutenant Governor's Award for Architecture* for the Keshen Goodman Library.

### **New Cataloguing System**

HRL's online catalogue is getting a whole new look! During the spring of 2003, HRL will change over to new software, which will be more visually appealing and ultimately more user-friendly for the public. The new software, with its cleaner, more contemporary look, will also enable users to link directly from the catalogue to both e-branch (the Library's website) and the Internet. By the end of 2003, links from the catalogue will also provide patrons with access to book reviews, book cover art, as well as table of contents information on popular titles. To support this new catalogue, HRL will be installing new personal computers to replace the current catalogue terminals. These new computers will help the Library meet demand for improved access to its collection, as well as to the Internet. HRL's entire collection will remain accessible from home through the Library's website at [www.halifax.library.ns.ca](http://www.halifax.library.ns.ca). PC installation at all 14 branches of the HRL system will be completed through the summer months.

### **Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)**

Doctoral student Matt Robinson of the University of New Brunswick recently stopped by PARL's New Glasgow Library Program Room to give a talk to the grade 12 Canadian Literature class of the New Glasgow High School. Robinson is currently promoting his second book of poetry, *How We Play At It: A List*. The 30 students welcomed his easy, informal style as he gave a humorous talk on the creative process, writing poetry and being a published author.

For the past four years, PARL has hosted the *Community Volunteer Income Tax Program* for seniors and persons on a fixed income. Each year at this time up to 15 volunteers trained by the Canada Customs and Revenue descend upon PARL's New Glasgow Library Program Room armed with lots of sharp pencils to help fill out income tax returns. This year for the first time, the Library will be hosting the much-appreciated program for one afternoon each week for the entire months of March and April.

During the first week of March, PARL's research department will launch another digital project featuring the history and culture of Nova Scotia. The website, which has been named the *North Nova Scotia Highlanders*, is comprised of a scrapbook of scanned newspaper clippings concerning this renowned regiment. Provided by Pictou County resident Florence Hughes, who with acquaintances collected the articles from Truro, Debert and Amherst daily newspapers over a 20 year period, which included the war years. The site features a time-saving search capability and a list of articles with titles such as: *Last Wishes*, *Three Decorated*, *The Life of a P.O.W.*, and *Brilliant Exploits in North Nova's Battle Record*.

PARL recently hired seven new employees to resume the *C@P Technology Trainer* program in the region. As in the past, the new group will keep their positions for one year and give one-on-one training to patrons seeking basic computer literacy. This service has always been highly regarded and continues to make a positive contribution to PARL's communities.

The three part session, *Fly Tying For Beginners*, currently being held in PARL's New Glasgow Library Program Room, marks the first time the Library has held a multi-part instructional session of this nature over a three month period.

**Would-be fly tying enthusiasts look on as Parker Wong of the Pictou County River Association shows how to wrap the body of a wet streamer!**



## **South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)**

### **Homework Help**

Staff at the Lunenburg Library have created a homework club for teens. Kids in grades 6 - 12 may bring their homework to the Library on Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. for a quiet place to study, volunteer assistance, help with research and high speed Internet access.

### **Fabulous Local Author**

Local author Budge Wilson read to grade 4 students at the Libraries in Lunenburg and Liverpool on February 20 as part of a *Write In Our Backyard* author reading series, sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts. Budge, author of *A fiddle for Angus*, *Manfred the unmanageable monster*, *Duff's monkey business* and many other children's books, is a grand example of the high calibre of writers living and writing along Nova Scotia's South Shore.

### **Rootin' Around**

On the evening of Thursday, February 27 genealogist Pat Smith introduced people in the Bridgewater area, who are interested in discovering information about their family tree, to the basics of researching a family tree. The presentation was followed by an open discussion on research and a question and answer session.

### **Web Awareness Course**

As parents find it increasingly difficult to balance the importance of intellectual freedom with that of safety for their families and themselves, SSRL staff have joined forces with Bridgewater Town Police, the RCMP and the local banking industry, to help parents navigate the dangerous waters of the Internet by offering a series of Web Awareness courses. The sessions will run through March at the Bridgewater Superstore. Topics include *Web Awareness: Safety and Responsibility*, *Police and the Internet: Computer Forensics*, *Financial Safety and the Internet*; and *Identity Theft: Protecting Yourself in a Technological World*.

### **Take a Break**

During the upcoming school March Break, the Bridgewater Library will be offering programs for pre-schoolers and younger elementary children. On March 14 toddlers can enjoy a Teddy Bear's Tea, while on March 13 kids age 9 - 13 will learn the art and craft of origami.

### **Book Sale Changes!**

SSRL's popular book sale will be held twice this year! The first sale will be in April, with the second to follow in October. It is hoped both sales will alleviate the congestion of books at SSRL's Headquarters and provide their loyal supporters with double the time to select books. Details on the October sale will follow in early summer.

### **Spring Author Visits**

An exciting line up of authors are set to visit SSRL over the next few months. Maxine Trottier, Mary Jane Hampton and Susan Haley will visit this Spring. Bruce Nunn will read in Lunenburg on May 14 and Liverpool on May 22. All readings are

sponsored by a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

## **Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)**

### **Funding Secured For Study Smart initiative**

Students throughout Yarmouth, Shelburne and Digby counties will soon be introduced to a new online study and research tool. *Study Smart* is a new initiative of WCRL to extend the reach of its *Smart Library* program. The Library's *Smart Library* web site was launched last year and offers full online library services to a rural and remote population. The *Study Smart* program will introduce *Smart Library* web services to all first-year high school students and their teachers throughout the region. WCRL Director Trudy Amirault said, "the Smart Study project is a way to reach the high school audience in a meaningful way to show the benefits of online library service." This \$16,000 initiative of the library is being funded, in part, by an Industry Canada grant. Canada's SchoolNet Youth Initiative promotes increased access to and effective use of information and communication technology by Canadians. As well, a *Study Help* page will be developed for the library's web site. The page will provide step-by-step guidance in the use of the *Smart Library* site to conduct effective online research and study.

Yarmouth resident Sarah Dares, a graduate of Dalhousie University, has been hired to develop the presentation, working under the direction of staff librarians. During the nine-week project Sarah will travel to all eight high schools in the region and address around 600 students and their teachers. "It's exciting to be involved in a project like this," said Dares, "The challenge is not only to make them aware of what is available, but to provide a guide that will simplify the process of accessing precisely the information they require."



**Sarah Dares on WCRL's web site, where she will be developing a new study page for use by high school students, part of a nine week project, funded in part by Industry Canada.**

### **Web Awareness Training Concentrates On Youth Workers And Parents**

Do you know what your children are doing online? It is that question that forms the basis for a Canadian initiative to educate parents – and their children – about the power of the Internet. Its limitless reach and lack of censorship are both the Internet's strengths and its weaknesses. Learning to evaluate the source and reliability of information found on the Internet is a key to harnessing its power without being hurt by it. Feb. 20 was Web Awareness Day in Canada, but the need to educate parents so they can educate their kids is ongoing.

At WCRL staff librarians have been trained and are available to give workshops on the following themes:

- Kids For Sale: online marketing to kids and privacy issues
- Safe Passage: online safety and offensive and inappropriate content
- Fact or Folly: authentication of online information.

Rather than plan a specific event for Web Awareness Day, WCRL has concentrated on spreading web awareness among youth leaders, teachers and parent groups throughout the winter. For example, over the next month Shelburne Library Services Coordinator Joanne Head will be giving workshops on authentication of online information and online safety to mentors, staff, parents and volunteers at Our House, a drop in centre for teenagers. Joanne will also be presenting both workshops to mentors and volunteer staff at the Woods Harbour C@P site. Information about Web Awareness can be found at MNet's *Web Awareness: Knowing the Issues* site, at <http://www.media-awareness.ca/eng/webaware/home.htm>.

### **WCRL Delivers Programs For White Cane Week**

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) has seen its client list double in the past 15 years and expects that number to do so again by 2015. Every 10 minutes of every working day, a new client comes through the CNIB's doors and the majority of those new clients are seniors.

During White Cane Week, Feb. 3 - 9, WCRL held three programs focusing on issues facing the blind and visually impaired. Mary Jane Harkins, Coordinator of Special Education for the Tri-County District School Board and Paulette Landry, a special education teacher spoke about strategies for working with persons with visual impairments on Wednesday, Feb 5 at noon during Mid-Week Break at the Izaak Walton Killam Library in Yarmouth. How does it feel to be blind? That was the topic of an evening program at the McKay Memorial Library in Shelburne, also on Wed., Feb. 5. Two CNIB videos, *Louis Braille* and *What to Do When You Meet a Blind Man*, were available.

In Yarmouth, on Thursday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. there was a demonstration of some of the latest technological advances to aid those with visual impairments. Included was a demonstration of a new talking book technology, called Daisy Player, which converts books and other written documents into a digital format. The CNIB is in the process of converting its collection of talking book tape cassettes to DAISY format. It is expected to take up to five years to complete the translation. The technology links electronic text to digitally recorded spoken word. This allows the user to pinpoint exactly where in a book they want to pick up the thread of a story, or exactly which article in a magazine they'd like to hear. It eliminates the frustration of endlessly fast-forwarding and rewinding tapes. With special players, DAISY audio books can now be used at home or when travelling.

**WCRL Deputy Director Virginia Stoddard demonstrates the DAISY player to Yarmouth Mayor Charles Crosby.**



### **Radio Public Awareness Campaign Focuses On Service, Knowledge And Accessibility**

Fifteen public service spots highlighting key library themes began airing on CJLS Radio on Friday, Jan. 31. Text and voice for the 15-second spots were supplied by WCRL's Public Relations Manager, Belle Hatfield. Station vice-president, Ray Zinck produced the campaign at no cost to WCRL. The campaign focuses on several of the library's key strengths; knowledge, services and accessibility. The campaign is tied together with the recurring slogan: *Your Library. Your door to the world.* The PSAs are aired in random rotation and are scheduled in that rotation, for at least three months. CJLS Radio transmits to the entire region served by WCRL.

### **Library Launches Partnership With Hockey's Mariners**

WCRL has launched a reading awareness campaign in cooperation with the Yarmouth Mariners Junior A hockey team. *Exercise your Mind, Read a Book*, is aimed at teenagers and pre-teens, age groups whose borrowing rates dip. Around 90 people attended a special *Reading Buddies* program at which team members spoke about their experiences, answered questions and signed autographs. The campaign includes library promos at the Mariners Centre during Mariners games, the first of which prompted 94 people to show their library cards (or register for a new card) for a chance to win a signed hockey stick. Several of the team's players have been photographed for a special series of posters that emphasize the theme. The posters are being produced by Optipress Inc. from photos supplied by WCRL. The Mariners have supplied the Library with a promotional hockey stick and the team's newly minted hockey cards.



Players on the Yarmouth Mariners Junior A hockey team participate in WCRL's *Read* campaign.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

Dr. Fiona Black has been appointed as Acting Director of the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) from January 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. Dr Black, who joined Dalhousie's faculty in 2001, has 11 years of practitioner experience, including mid-level management in the library and information studies field. Dr. Black holds a B.Ed. from Aberdeen University, Scotland, an M.L.I.S. degree from Dalhousie, and her Ph.D. from the Department of Information Science, Loughborough University, England.

Dr. Bertrum H. MacDonald has been appointed Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University. Dr. MacDonald has left the post of Director of SLIS, which he has held for the past seven and a half years, to assume the new position. On February 6, 2003, the SLIS Alumni Association held a very successful dinner to thank Dr. MacDonald for his numerous services to the School.

On February 28, 2003, Pamela McKenzie, from the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, University of Western Ontario, delivered a lecture on the topic *Positioning Theory and Information Seeking in a Clinical Midwifery Setting*.

## HOT TIPS & UPDATES

### SEARCH ENGINES AT OLA'S SUPER CONFERENCE 2003

Recent developments in search engines were featured in two sessions at the OLA Super Conference in January. In separate presentations, both Gary Price and Gwen Harris made the point that *Google* is so dominant in the search engine marketplace that the verb *to google*, meaning to search on the Internet, is often used. This has resulted in more work for *Google's* legal staff, who are resisting this trend. They are concerned that if the word becomes accepted as a generic verb, they will lose control of their trade mark. Recently, letters have been sent to the owners of several web sites and online dictionaries to clarify the use of the word.

Gwen Harris is an information consultant specializing in Web searching and online education. She has conducted many in person and online courses at the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. The useful handout from her OLA session, entitled *Web Search Alert* is available at [www.websearchguide.ca/](http://www.websearchguide.ca/). One exciting development is the *WebSearchGuide*, a newsletter which has information on web searching, web strategies and tools from a Canadian

perspective. Gwen discussed recent developments at the various search engines, including the latest ownership changes: *Yahoo* now owns *Inktomi* and *Ask Jeeves* now owns *Teoma*, for example. She encouraged people to try *Alltheweb* [www.alltheweb.com](http://www.alltheweb.com), which now indexes over 2 billion web pages. For cartographic searches, she recommends [www.kartoo.com](http://www.kartoo.com). A useful comparison chart showing the various features and policies of the major search engines can be found at [www.websearchguide.ca/research/compfram.htm](http://www.websearchguide.ca/research/compfram.htm).

Gary Price is the compiler of the *ResourceShelf* newsletter [www.resourceshelf.com](http://www.resourceshelf.com), one of the best sources of information on new resources and developments for information professionals. Gary's presentation will be available for a limited time at [www.freepint.com/gary/olawebsearch.htm](http://www.freepint.com/gary/olawebsearch.htm). Gary spoke about the *Invisible Web*, which he defines as material found on the web that general search tools cannot, do not, or will not find. Gale's *Infotrac* databases, available via the web, but not freely available on the web, would be one example of the *Invisible Web*. He encouraged the audience to pay attention to the limitations of some search engines. For example: *Google* does not crawl documents that are over 101K, does not allow a search of over 10 words, and is only completely updated once a month. Each search engine has its own policies and limitations. However, *Google* is the only one to include *PowerPoint* or *Excel* files. He suggested using different search engines for different types of searches, rather than taking a "one size fits all" approach. Gary recommended having a look at the metasearch engine *Vivisimo* [www.vivisimo.com](http://www.vivisimo.com), which has been named the best metasearch engine two years running by *Search Engine Watch*. Some web sites include "no robots" instructions, which means they will not turn up in a search. He also encouraged the audience to have a look at the *Internet Archive Wayback Machine* [www.archive.org/](http://www.archive.org/), which archives web pages. By entering a URL at this site, you can see what it looked like in the past.

Search engines are changing quickly, and it can be difficult to keep up. Two good resources to help you stay current are *Search Engine Watch* [searchenginewatch.com/](http://searchenginewatch.com/) and *Search Day* <http://www.searchenginewatch.com/searchday/>.

### NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY TALKING BOOKS BROCHURE

All Nova Scotia public libraries provide access to talking books, which are novels, short stories, non-fiction, etc., read aloud on cassette tapes especially for persons with a print disability. Since Section 32 (1) of the Canadian Copyright Act was recently broadened to include persons with a perceptual disability, more people are eligible to borrow talking books.

A new Talking Book Brochure and Talking Book Application Form have been developed and are available for downloading at <http://www.library.ns.ca/publications/index.htm>.

### WEB AWARENESS DAY

Web Awareness Day was February 20. The theme for Web Awareness Day and the WebAware project is *Parenting the Net Generation: It's not just by the book anymore*®, which highlights the responsibility of parents in assisting young people to become cautious media users.

**Web  
Awareness**

Day



**February 20, 2003**

...at your public library

Examples of Web Awareness Day activities provided by Nova Scotia's public libraries to help parents provide this guidance

include:

- CBRL hosted two public presentations with practical tips on Internet use with children at the McConnell Library on Web Awareness Day.
- Rather than plan a specific event for Web Awareness Day, WCRL's branch libraries decided to concentrate on spreading web awareness among youth leaders, teachers and parents during the winter.
- WCRL gave the *Fact or Folly* and the *Safe Passage* presentations to mentors, staff, parents and volunteers at the Shelburne Youth Centre and the Woods Harbour C@P site. Daily tips for parents appeared on WCRL's web site during the latter part of the Web Awareness Day week at <http://www.westerncounties.ca>.
- SSRL created and distributed a bookmark with workshop information to local schools, targeted at parents of children in grades 5-9.



**SSRL's Lunenburg Branch Library Assistant Christina Pottie, shown on the far left, delivered basic safety instruction to the Lunenburg Girl Guide Unit for their Internet Safety badge, the requirements for which can be found at <http://www.girlguides.ca/technology/guides.asp>. Christina's presentation focused on using some of the Media Awareness handouts.**

**SSRL's Deanna Gear assists a group of Girl Guides on Web Awareness Day.**



- SSRL distributed two press releases to local papers describing web awareness promotions. The first release was a description of the Web Awareness information series presented in conjunction with the Bridgewater police. The second release described how the 1st Lunenburg Girl Guide Unit completed their *You Go Girl in Technology Challenge* on January 28 at SSRL's Lunenburg Library. The purpose of the Challenge is to help girls become more critical users of technology by developing good judgment, common sense and critical thinking skills and to apply these skills to their use of the Internet. The Challenge also encourages Guiders to become more involved in the online world of kids. Sixteen girls and four Guiders received the Challenge. The Lunenburg Sparks will receive the Challenge in March.
- SSRL provided the provincial Girl Guides organization with information on the local Girl Guide activities, based on the new badge. The Girl Guides of Canada have partnered with the Media Awareness Network to develop the *You Go Girl in Technology Internet Literacy Project*.
- HRL featured Web Awareness Day in the January-February guide, and it is highlighted in the *What's up* section of their

web site. HRL staff have been working on safe use of Internet resources with local Girl Guide groups at the Alderney Gate branch, with discussions underway with the Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club for staff and parent training.

- ECRL distributed a copy of *Internet Facts From Your Public Library* to each of the three community newspapers - a different article for each paper - for publication during Web Awareness Day week. All ECRL branches and Links received copies of the *WebAware Checklists for Parents, Teens, and Kids*, and the *Family Online Rules*, as well as bookmarks, posters and brochures.

- CEHRL launched a Web Wise Page at <http://cehlibrary.ednet.ns.ca/webwise.html> on February 20, with a variety of information on safe use of the Internet for children.

## LEARNING ONLINE: OPPORTUNITIES AND ISSUES WORKSHOP

Metro Council on Continuing Education presented *Learning Online: Opportunities and Issues*, February 4 and 5, 2003 at NSPL. Wayne Hamilton, Consultant, Information Technology, Learning Resources & Technology, N.S. Department of Education, gave an introduction and overview of Online Learning on day one of this day-and-a-half workshop. His successful keynote set the tone for the workshop.

The following speakers focused on *What Does an Online Web Course Look Like?* Marlene Mortimore, Program Coordinator, Distance Library & Information Technology Program, N.S. Community College, spoke about her experience as an instructor at the college, offering both face-to-face and distance education courses. Sue Boutilier, Curriculum Consultant, Online Studies spoke about the overall goals for online education at the N.S. Community College.

David Smith, Coordinator, Correspondence Study Program, Learning Resources & Technology, N.S. Dept of Education, spoke about the need for a systematic approach for successful Distance Education. David explained how students could take advantage of a wealth of research material to use as stepping stones to discover which software and hardware worked best. For examples of useful reviews in journals and online publications see <http://www.ion.illinois.edu/resources/journal>.

Carolyn Nobes, Open Learning Coordinator, Distance Learning & Continuing Education, Mount St. Vincent University gave a *Web CT Online* demo. Carolyn coordinates and teaches online hospitality programs in four Caribbean countries.

Nancy Taber, N.S. Regional Representative, Career Circuit, gave an overview of the Career Circuit features, including how students can find mentors who will correspond with them online. *Circuit Coach* is a leading edge training program that offers a wide range of ready-to-use, practical interventions and supports students in building key career development competencies. Check out <http://www.thecircuit.org/main.cfm> for additional information.

Gillian Webster, Information and Network Services Librarian, NSPL, N.S. Department of Education, gave a short presentation on searching techniques with the search engine *Google*, followed by hands-on training. Go to the temporary link of online learning resources at [http://lrl.ednet.ns.ca/dist\\_ed.htm](http://lrl.ednet.ns.ca/dist_ed.htm).

Day two focused on *Integrating Technology into Current Practice*. Wayne Hamilton gave a talk and demonstration on *Software Components & Their Use*. Carolyn Nobes discussed *Course Design and Facilitation*. Marlene Mortimore looked at how learning styles and online learning could be woven together in her presentation *Online collaboration, Needs analysis, Learning styles*. The day wrapped up with a two hour interactive panel discussion on *Issues Arising from Online Learning*. Approximately 40 people, including the presenters, attended the workshop.

For information on the Metro Council on Continuing Education, go to <http://www.mcce.ca>.

## REFERENCE SERVICES: VIRTUAL, DIGITAL AND IN-LIBRARY TELECONFERENCE

On February 7, a group of library workers gathered at NSPL for part one of the reference services teleconference series from College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL, entitled *Reference Services: Virtual, digital and In-Library - a New Model for Effective Delivery*. During the session a panel of experts addressed issues related to reference services in today's libraries. They emphasized the need to transfer reference services to users wherever they are (i.e. if the user is now online, then reference services must be available via the Internet), discussed the similarities in issues related to staffing a virtual reference desk as compared to maintaining a face-to-face service, and reviewed budget considerations in delivering a

reference service in a small public library.

Following the live telecast, participants at the NSPL site had the opportunity to look at local virtual reference activity, as Heather MacKenzie, Youth Services Manager, Alderney Gate Library, HRL, gave an overview and demo of the online homework service HRL offers. HRL is running a pilot project for this school year, which involves the use of the chat software *Human Click* to provide a ready reference type of service to school children. Heather reported that staff received 149 email requests in January via the online service. Fifty nine percent were sent between 9a.m. and 1p.m., during regular school hours. The service will be evaluated at the end of the school year.

Part two of the Reference series will be broadcast April 11, 2003. In addition to the live televised discussion of copyright and other topics, the program at the NSPL site will feature an overview of upcoming virtual reference services and online teaching modules at Acadia University. In addition, Holly Bureaux, Resource Manager, Reference Services, HRL, will report on the *Re-designing Reference Services* conference, which she attended earlier this year in New Jersey.

To attend part two of this series please contact Bernadette Kennedy at 424-3791 or via email at [kennedba@gov.ns.ca](mailto:kennedba@gov.ns.ca).

The Disseminator is an electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, 3770 Kempt Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 4X8. TEL (902) 424-2457; FAX (902) 424-0633

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